

separation policy that rips children away from their families is horrible and cruel, and it is. And we need you to keep the calls coming.

We are not going to let this happen. We are not going to let children continue to be ripped away from their families, but we need backup.

We are here to say we stand with the families. We love these children. Everyone should love these children, and we are not going to put up with Trump's anti-immigrant, hateful policy any longer.

Ms. JUDY CHU of California. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. BONAMICI).

Ms. BONAMICI. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

I spent the day before Father's Day at the Federal prison in Oregon, meeting the 123 asylum-seeking immigrant men who are incarcerated in prison. They were fleeing horrific violence and religious persecution. They were Christian and Sikh men from India. There was an LGBTQ man from Honduras and a man from Mexico whose property was burned because he has been targeted by gangs. We spoke with men who were separated from their wives and children and who, on Father's Day, had no idea where they were or how they were.

Criminalizing asylum seekers and separating families is cruel, and it is appalling.

Now we find out that there are tender-age shelters. Babies don't need their own jail. They need their own parents. This must stop. The President and the Department of Justice could stop it right now.

The American Academy of Pediatrics said that separating families in this way causes irreparable harm. Mistreating children for political leverage is outside of moral bounds, even for this administration.

As a mother, it breaks my heart. As an American and granddaughter of immigrants, it makes me furious.

And if the President won't sign something today, which he could, then, Speaker RYAN, bring us the Keeping Families Together Act, and let us do something to stop this horrific atrocity that is happening to children and to people who are coming to this country.

FAMILIES HAVE A RIGHT TO PETITION FOR ASYLUM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM) for 5 minutes.

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, this past week, my colleagues and I traveled to different parts of the border to see firsthand how children, mothers, and fathers are being terrorized by the most anti-immigrant, xenophobic, and racist administration of my lifetime.

We did this because we cannot stand by, cannot stand idly by, and watch the most powerful country in the world tearing children from their mothers

and their fathers at their most vulnerable and desperate moments. The stories of babies and toddlers being torn from the arms of their mothers and fathers, the heartbreaking audio of children crying and screaming for their parents, the account of a distraught father taking his own life after his own child was wrestled from his arms, and of a mother who was deported before she could recover her son from detention, these are the atrocities perpetrated by President Trump, and they must stop.

□ 0930

Families fleeing violence deserve and have a right to petition their claim for asylum, for that is the law of the land.

I am here with two children today to call on this administration to stop this cruel, inhumane practice that betrays who we are as a country.

The President could make the decision to end this practice right now and do the right thing. Failing that, Congress must act.

Madam Speaker, I yield to my distinguished colleague from Washington (Ms. JAYAPAL).

Ms. JAYAPAL. Madam Speaker, 10 days ago, I visited a Federal prison south of Seattle that holds 174 women. I met with all of those women. They are seeking asylum. One woman had three children. The first child was shot and murdered by gangs. The second child was shot and paralyzed by gangs, and the third child was the child she tried to bring here to safety.

These are the stories of the people who are coming across the border. All of the mothers and the 174 people who were at the Federal prison had not even been able to say good-bye to their children. They did not know where their children were. They had been subjected to the worst conditions at the border.

Madam Speaker, what is this country coming to? This is a country that should value our children, that should value the rights of our children; and these children are sitting in cages on the border in tent cities.

This President created this crisis, and this President can stop this crisis right now with a phone call. Do not tell us it is about Congress. It is about the President of the United States who has chosen to take this democracy to its very bottom.

This is the bottom. This is abuse. It is a human rights violation, and we must end it. He must end it.

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. GUTIÉRREZ).

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Madam Speaker, I want to thank all of my colleagues from all over the United States. I would like to ask them all to please step forward and bring your guests. Every Member of Congress is allowed two children under the age of 12. Please bring them forward with you.

I think more powerful than anything I could say is to stand with children.

Please. Please. We only have 5 minutes, but let's take the minutes so the children can step forward. Please bring them forward. All of the Members of Congress, you are all allowed under our rules to have two children.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would advise Members to not traffic the well while another Member is under recognition.

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Madam Speaker, under the protection of Members of the U.S. House of Representatives, we are here with the children because we believe that this is what is important.

I want to thank all of my colleagues. I know that the rules do not allow all of you to speak. But I think you speak with your presence here and with these children in your arms.

I want to tell you something. I know this is a tragic moment, but this weekend, I couldn't have felt prouder to be an American. I couldn't have felt prouder about just what our exceptionalism is.

I saw Americans everywhere across this country standing up for children, standing up for those who are in need, and standing up for moms and dads who are being separated.

Let's celebrate, too, that America sees this injustice, sees this cruelty, sees this evil, and did not remain silent. That is the America that I am so happy I was born into.

We have a great country. Let's remember that. So let's keep the fight. Let's keep the fight for these children who are here. They are so beautiful.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from New Mexico's time has expired.

The gentleman from Illinois is not recognized.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will reiterate an announcement by the Chair on July 7, 2016: An exhibition involving Members trafficking the well is a breach of decorum.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 10 a.m. today.

Accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 34 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1000

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WEBER of Texas) at 10 a.m.

PRAYER

Rabbi Mark Schifftan, The Temple: Congregation Ohabai Sholom, Nashville, Tennessee, offered the following prayer: